

A NEW MOLLUSK FROM SAN FELIPE,  
BAJA CALIFORNIA

BY

E. P. CHACE

As it has become easier to collect in the northern part of the Gulf of California, molluscan material in collections has increased. This additional material has shown the intergradation of some forms originally described from scanty material as distinct. On the other hand, however, it has emphasized the distinctness of some forms that conservative students previously were unwilling to name. Among these latter forms is the *Nassarius* described below, of which previously only one specimen was known.

*Nassarius howardae* sp. nov.

Shell of medium size for the genus, white, the thin periostracum light tan near the aperture but darker above, high spired, the apex acute, the whorls fairly convex, the suture impressed well below periphery. Nuclear whorls  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , smooth, white. Post-nuclear whorls 6. Axial ribs on early whorls 8, rounded, increasing to 25 on penultimate whorl and more on body whorl but becoming much weaker on base so that spirals are almost smooth. Spiral cords on early whorls 3, fairly strong, straplike, separated by channels about as wide, increasing to 7 or 8 on penultimate whorl and more on body whorl, forming low nodes where they pass over axial ribs. Aperture less than half length of shell; outer lip with varixlike thickening and 7 or 8 small elongate denticles within; inner lip with very thin callus on body whorl; columella nearly straight, with distinct channel just above its termination. Canal open, moderately deep. Some specimens with a second varix slightly more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  whorl back from aperture. Measurements of holotype: height 28 mm.; diameter  $13\frac{1}{2}$  mm.; height of aperture 11 mm.

The holotype is number 12954 in the conchological collection of the San Diego Natural History Museum. It was collected in December 1956 by Mrs. E. P. Chace and Mrs. Faye Howard at Almejas Beach, about 5 miles north of San Felipe, Baja California, Mexico. Paratypes are in the collections of Dr. S. Stillman Berry (Redlands, California), the California Academy of Sciences, the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, and the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. Another specimen of this species, number 21879 in the collection of the San Diego Natural History Museum, was collected at San Felipe about 1935 by Mr. J. M. Snyder.

*Nassarius howardae* somewhat resembles *N. perpinguis* Hinds, but the shell is heavier and more porcellaneous and the spirals are broader. *Nassarius rhinetes* Berry differs in having only 5 spirals on the penultimate whorl, and its sculpture is much more open.



FIG. 1. *Nassarius howardae* sp. nov. Holotype (right) and paratype.